

CLAIMS

I/We claim:

5 1. An automated data access method, comprising:
 identifying a content item to be accessed for a publication;
 identifying an event sequence associated with the content item
that is employed to access the content item; and
 reproducing the events of the event sequence to obtain access
to the content item.

10 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising detecting a sequence
mismatch while reproducing the events of the event sequence that precludes
access to the content item.

15 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of detecting the
sequence mismatch while reproducing the events of the event sequence that
precludes access to the content item further comprises detecting an absence
20 of an element in a network page.

25 4. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of detecting the
sequence mismatch while reproducing the events of the event sequence that
precludes access to the content item further comprises detecting a failure to
access a predefined page.

30 5. The method of claim 2, further comprising informing a user that
the content item could not be accessed using the event sequence.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
detecting an absence of an element from a predefined location
on a network page; and
identifying the element in a new location on the network page.

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7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
accessing the content item; and
formatting a publication that includes the content item.

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8. The method of claim 7, further comprising transmitting a
document that embodies the content item to a client for printing.

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9. A program embodied in a computer readable medium for
automated data access, comprising:
code that identifies a content item to be accessed;
code that identifies an event sequence associated with the
content item that is employed to access the content item; and
code that reproduces a number of events in the event sequence
to obtain access to the content item.

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10. The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim
9, further comprising code that detects a sequence mismatch while
reproducing the events of the event sequence that precludes access to the
content item.

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11. The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim 10, wherein the code that detects the sequence mismatch while reproducing the events of the event sequence that precludes access to the content item further comprises code that detects an absence of an element in a network page.

12. The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim 10, wherein the code that detects the sequence mismatch while reproducing the events of the event sequence that precludes access to the content item further comprises code that detects a failure to access a predefined page.

13. The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim 10, further comprising code that informs a user that the content item could not be accessed using the event sequence.

14. The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim 9, further comprising:

code that detects an absence of an element from a predefined location on a network page; and

code that identifies the element in a new location on the network page.

15. A system for automated data access, comprising:
means for identifying a content item to be accessed;
means for identifying an event sequence associated with the
5 content item that is employed to access the content item; and
means for reproducing a number of events in the event
sequence to obtain access to the content item.

10 16. The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim
15, further comprising means for detecting a sequence mismatch while
reproducing the events of the event sequence that precludes access to the
content item.

15 17. The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim
15, further comprising:

means for detecting an absence of an element from a
predefined location on a network page; and

20 means for identifying the element in a new location on the
network page.

25 18. A method for establishing automated data access to a network
page, comprising:

identifying a starting network page for an event sequence
recording session;

opening the event sequence recording session; and

30 recording a number of events that occur during an access of the
network page.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising storing the number of events as an event sequence.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of recording a number of events that occur during an access of the network page further comprises recording a selection of the network page to be automatically accessed.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of recording a number of events that occur during an access of the network page further comprises recording a selection of a network page that is to be verified when accessed.

22. The method of claim 18, further comprising closing the event sequence recording session upon a selection of a last network page to be automatically accessed.

23. A program embodied on a computer readable medium for establishing automated data access to a network page, comprising:
code that generates a set of event recording interface components on a display device;
code that opens an event sequence recording session at a starting network page in response to a start input;
code that records a number of network page access events that occur during an access of the network page; and
code that closes the event sequence recording session in response to a close input.

24. The program embodied on a computer readable medium of claim 23, further comprising storing the number of events as an event sequence.

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25. The program embodied on a computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the code that records the number of network page access events that occur during the access of the network page further comprises code that records a selection of the network page to be automatically
10 accessed.

26. The program embodied on a computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the code that records the number of network page access events that occur during the access of the network page further comprises
15 code that records a selection of an intermediate network page that is to be verified when accessed.

27. The program embodied on a computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the code that records the selection of the intermediate network page that is to be verified when accessed further comprises code that
20 records a number of elements in the intermediate network page to be verified in an event sequence.